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DUMP THE INBOARD NAVIGATIONAL FILES INTO THE BASE SYSTEM — I WANT A TIME-CODED HARD COPY OF THE FLIGHT LOG IN FIFTEEN MINUTES.
LOG ON. EYES ONLY. (OVERRIDE CLEARANCE A1A REQUIRED) Lt. EUGENE POWELL, U.S.C.M.C.
SCOFF THOSE THINGS— ATTACKED US—
WE WERE LUCKY TO SURVIVE—
THAT'S NOT LUCK— THAT'S SEDITION!
IN LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS, I HAVE OPENED A DAILY LOG TO SUMMARIZE MY ASSESSMENT OF BASE COMMANDER SPEAR'S FITNESS FOR DUTY.
MY R&D PEOPLE NEEDED THOSE SPECIMENS— IT WAS A CHANCE TO STUDY POSSIBLE MUTATIONS BROUGHT ON BY THE CREATURES' EXPOSURE TO MULTIPLE HUMAN STRAINS.
PUT THEM INTO ISOLATION— SUBCUTANEOUS MONITORS AND FULL-PRISM SPECTOGRAPHY—
IF THEY'RE INFECTED, WE MAY SALVAGE SOMETHING FROM THIS MISSION YET.
JESUS— DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? EARTH'S GONE—
I REALIZE THESE NOTES COULD BE CONSTRUED AS MUTINOUS -- EVEN TRAITOROUS --
BUT IT HAS FALLEN TO ME TO KEEP SOME SORT OF RECORD.
YOU THINK YOU CAN CONTROL THEM? THAT'S WHAT THE OTHERS BELIEVED—
THAT'S WHAT THOSE THINGS DEPEND ON!
T. SPEAR

AT 0900 HOURS I RELIEVED LT. BAINBRIDGE AND TOOK OVER AS DUTY OFFICER IN THE MAIN HABITAT. I OBSERVED GENERAL SPEARS ALONE, NEAR ONE OF THE CONTAINMENT VESSELS.
HE SEEMED TO BE *WATCHING* THEM.
2974A
P456J

AT 1023 HOURS, I OVERHEARD THE GENERAL MUTTER SOMETHING UNDER HIS BREATH. HE WAS SMILING AS HE SAID IT, *REPEATING* HIMSELF SEVERAL TIMES.
PERFECTION—
PERFECTION—

THE GENERAL'S BEHAVIOR HAS BEEN ERRATIC FOR MONTHS, BUT I NOTICED A MARKED CHANGE FOR THE *WORSE* WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE CARGO VESSEL FROM EARTH.
TWO HUMANS AND A DAMAGED SYNTHETIC HAD *COMMANDEERED* THE SHIP AT LAUNCH. DURING THE VOYAGE THEY SOMEHOW DESTROYED A CLUSTER OF SPEAR'S INCUBATING *SPECIMENS*.
I HAD NEVER SEEN THE GENERAL SO ANGRY --
-- SO *DISAPPOINTED*,
THE STOWAWAYS LOST COMMUNICATIONS SOON AFTER LAUNCH AND HAD COME TO BELIEVE EARTH'S ALIEN PLAGUE HAD BEEN *DESTROYED* BY AN ALL-OUT NUCLEAR ATTACK.
NONE OF THAT WAS ANY CONCERN TO GENERAL SPEARS.

YOU— →COF←— YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE *DEALING* WITH. JESUS, YOU'VE GOT TO *LISTEN* TO ME—

SOUNDS LIKE THE OLD MAN'S HEARD *ENOUGH*—

I— I'M AFRAID, DADDY THE MONSTERS MIGHT HEAR US— THEY MIGHT TRY TO *HURT* US, LIKE THEY HURT RICKY AND—

KEEP MOVING—

19F EARTH SAT

5B EARTH SAT

EARTH-SAT—?

SPEAR'S *TECHIES* HAVE BEEN MONITORING THE CIVILIAN SATELLITES SINCE WE ESTABLISHED THE BASE—

WHAT THE HELL KEEPS THEM OFF *HARD* DUTY—

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE—! WE LOST *CONTACT* WITH EARTH DURING—

WHAT THE *HELL*— HARKER, GRAB THE *GIRL*—

DON'T *LEAVE* ME, DADDY— PLEASE!

21:53... 17

SAT

20C EARTH SA

LTT

WHY ARE THEY DOING THIS? THEY DIDN'T EVEN *TALK* TO US— FIND OUT WHAT *HAPPENED*—

THEY'RE PRETENDING ALL THEIR MILITARY *BULLSHIT* STILL *MATTERS*.

KBK KBK I'VE KNOWN DOZENS OF OFFICERS LIKE SPEARS— THEY FIGURE THEIR RANK IS *PROOF* OF SOME *DIVINE PURPOSE*.

HIS MEN— THE *TRUTH*— NONE OF THAT COUNTS FOR SHIT JUST POWER, *COMMAND*.—

HE HAS THAT *LOOK* IN HIS EYES—LIKE HE'S INVULNERABLE, *IMMORTAL*. LIFE, DEATH—IT'S ALL MEANINGLESS.

IT'S THE SAME FEELING I GET WHEN I SEE ONE OF THOSE *THINGS*.

THE GENERAL'S OBSESSION WITH THE ALIEN HAS *CLOUDED* HIS REASON. HE ANSWERS TO NO AUTHORITY BUT HIS *OWN*.

THE PRISONERS COULD HAVE PROVIDED IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT EARTH -- ABOUT OUR *FUTURE*. INSTEAD, SPEARS HAS QUARANTINED THEM FOR USE AS ALIEN *BREEDING* STOCK.

HOW MUCH DID YOU GET?
THREE DAYS WORTH. SPEARS HAS BINDING TALLIES ON PERISHABLES BUT I MADE A DEAL WITH ONE OF THE SECOND LEVEL SUPPLY OFFICERS.
I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET OFF THIS ROCK—
OKAY, LET'S GO.
I FIGURE WE'VE GOT A FEW HOURS' GRACE WHILE SPEARS AND FOWLER PLAY MAD DOCTOR WITH THE NEW ARRIVALS. IF WE CAN CLEAR THE SCOPES, WE MAY BE ABLE TO CONTACT THE CIVILIAN TERRAFORMING COLONY.
AND WHAT IF THE CIVILIANS DON'T FEEL LIKE TALKING?
THEN SPEARS WILL FIND US.
WE DON'T WANT THAT.
HEY, RENLIS— COMING TO KEEP ME COMPANY?
BETTER— I'M RELIEVING YOU. SERGEANT PECKER WANTS YOU TO CHECK THE CIRCULATION PUMPS ON D LEVEL— WE'RE SHOWING RED ON THREE CHAMBERS.
FIGURES THEY'D LET IT GO RED BEFORE BRINGING ME UP. GIVE ME A SECOND TO PUNCH UP THE WATCH COMMANDER AND—
SORRY, BOBBY.
SECURITY
GOING. GET THE DOOR.

CAN'T BREAK IT, SECURITY SEALS ALL AROUND.
SHIT.
ALL RIGHT, DOESN'T MATTER—WE'RE COMMITTED. SECURITY SWEEPS THE PERIMETER EVERY FOUR HOURS—WE'RE CLEAR UNTIL THEN—
I DON'T CARE IF WE HAVE FOUR SECONDS—ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN FACING THOSE THINGS.
SET.
BURN IT.
CHRIST, GOING, FORGET THE TRACTOR—GO FOR ONE OF THE SPEEDERS—
TOO DANGEROUS. LOW LEVEL RADAR WOULD CLICK US BEFORE WE WERE TEN FEET OFF THE GROUND.
GIVE ME A MINUTE TO TRASH THE INBOARD ALARMS.
I'VE BEEN THINKING, MAN, EVEN IF WE MAKE IT TO THE TERRAFORMING COLONY, WHAT IF SPEARS—
FORGET SPEARS. WE'LL MAKE IT—
—WE'VE GOT TO.

MILITARY
A PARTIAL FILE
I SAW IT IN THE R COMMANDING OFFICERS EYES. HE WANTED SOMETHING
SOMETHING MORE THAN
WORSE THAN
ALIVE Z
WITH PUNISHMENT MORE THAN THAT
ABOUT TIME, YOU BASTARDS.
I COULD HEAR A STRANGE ROARING
AND ETHEREA
SOMETHING WET
I TRIED TO LIFT MY HEAD,
TRAPS WERE
IN TO MY THROAT—

THEY NEEDED SPECIMENS
SHE NEEDED ME

NOOO!!!

GET OFF ME!

NEWT... NEWT... I'M ALL RIGHT I AM HERE

I KEEP ORDERING YOUR MEAT RARE

IT'S NOT REAL BEEF, OF COURSE THE MESS SERGEANT PUTS IT TOGETHER OUT OF PROTEIN ROCKS AND THAT DOWNRIGHT SCRY CONCENTRATE BUT I THINK THE FLAVOR WILL IMPRESS YOU

THE CORPORAL TELLS ME YOUR FRIENDS CALL YOU NEWT I HOPE WE CAN BE FRIENDS

I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR ANYTHING HAPPENING WHEN WE WERE DOING MORE THAN STRESS THE AMENITIES

WHEN I LET POWER FRIGHTEN YOUR SPECIAL ABILITIES TO MY ATTENTION I REALIZED I HAD MADE A SERIOUS MISTAKE

WE... WE NEVER INTENDED TO IMPEDE YOUR SCIENTIFIC MISSION, GENERAL

WHAT EXACTLY IS YOUR PROJECTED CONTROL?

CLICK

WHEN GRONAX DESTROYED PROTEUS ONE IN THE NAVSENTINEL BAY WE WERE FRIGHTENED BY IT BUT NOW

THEN IT SEEMED IT SPEAKS TO ME AND AT TIMES I KNEW IT TO BE BEAUTY

LOOK AT THEM LOOK AT THEM
THE FOOLS ON EARTH WANTED TO ANNIHILATE THEM. NUCLEAR DEVASTATION. MY ORDER. I COULDN'T PERMIT IT
CORPORAL HICKS. PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENT, THE BENEDICT, AND BEFORE THAT, THE CULACO. YOU FOUGHT THE ALIEN ON ITS OWN SOIL AND SURVIVED.
HOW I ENVY YOU.
WE'RE SO FRAIL, SO WEAK COMPARED TO THEM. THEY HAVE THE STRENGTH AND POWER OF TRUE SUPERIORS. THEY DEMONSTRATE AN UNQUESTIONING, UNWAVERING LOYALTY TO THEIR CAUSE.
ALL THEY LACK IS PROPER DIRECTION. LEADERSHIP.
I CAN PROVIDE THAT. I CAN MAKE THEM INTO AN ARMY. I CAN USE THEM TO RECLAIM EARTH FROM THEIR BRETHREN.

EXPERTISE
MURDERED
BITCH!
FIVE MINUTES.
NOW? WEAK-
UNDERSTAND
BETTER
WATCH
CLICK

OURSELVES
NEEDS
RUTTED
ELSE
KNEW

I'M MYSELF
WORST
SEE
SCREAM
BASTARD!

I DON'T WANT IT RUN ANYMORE I WANT TO GO HOME
I KNOW YOU'RE HOME TO THAT'S ALL ANY OF US WANTS
DADDY ?
SHIT! IT'S OKAY, AMY— WE'RE ALL RIGHT
DAMN! WE'VE GOT TO FIND BETTER OVER
I USED TO THINK THEY WERE FLYING RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS. NOW I THINK THEY'RE JUST LOOKING FOR FUN
THAT'S WHAT THEM I CAN'T FIGURE WHY THEY'RE STILL KEEPING UP THE RUSE— YOU KNOW PRETENDING SOMEONE'S WATCHING · PRETENDING SOMEONE EVEN CARES
MAYBE THAT'S ALL THEY HAVE LEFT—

ESCAPE!
RIGHT
ALWAYS
ACCUSTOMED
FOLLOWED
EXISTS

I FINALLY REALIZED WHERE ALL LOVE GO BY NOW
IT'S THE TERRAFORMERS THAT WE BECAME NEXT MILITARY [illegible] NOT BE VERY HAPPY
I MAY THINK NOBODY I'M NOT GETTING ANY SIGNAL [illegible] EVEN THE STANDARD REACH
THEY SERVED THEIR [illegible] HAVE SEED TO [illegible] WITHOUT BREAKING A SWEAT
MAYBE MAYBE WE COULD GET LIKE SORT OF ASYLUMZ [illegible] KNOW LIKE POLITICAL PRISONERS
YEAH AND AFTER THAT WE ANOTHER PRESIDENT
AWOL ASYLUM SHIP
SEEN
ANYONE

THE LAUNCH BAY'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FACILITY. PEACE AND QUIET ONLY MAKE IT EASIER
JUST KEEP MOVING. I DON'T LIKE THIS. I DON'T LIKE ANY OF
JESUS. NOW YOU'RE GETTING TO ME.
WAIT A MINUTE
THIS SURFACE — IT'S NOT LIKE THE REST. IT'S ALMOST ORGANIC —
FORGET ABOUT IT. LET'S JUST GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE —

PIECES
THINGS
TOGETHER
HIVE –
AAAAAGGHHH!!!

OH MY GOD.
...THEY'RE EVERYWHERE.

WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE CHAMBER.

NORTH— GET READY WITH A GRENADE!

READY!

Uhh!

CLICK

5 4 3 2 1

NO!

KABOOM
YOU WANT ME—
COME AND GET ME—
WHAT THE—
EAT THIS.
EEEEEEEAAAGGHH!!

GAYYGGG-
GET-IT- OFF-ME-EEGGGHHH!
UGHHHKK-
YOU FILTHY TRAITOR. WE WERE WORKING TOWARD SOMETHING BETTER-SOMETHING STRONGER.
-AND ALL YOU COULD DO WAS TRY AND DESTROY IT.
WE NEEDED TO SIMULATE HUMAN BREEDING CONDITIONS TO GET VIABLE TEST RESULTS.
THE TERRAFORMERS FOUGHT US AT FIRST, BUT EVENTUALLY THEY GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THE GREATER GOOD.
HE-HELLLLP MEEE-
LOOK AT YOU. SO PATHETIC. SO WEAK.
MAKES ME FEEL GOOD TO HEAR YOU BEG.
NO-DONIT PUT ME BACK IN THERE WITH THEM-
NOOOOOOOOOAAAGGHHH!